



Prepared by the California International
Relations Foundation
Sacramento, California

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The California International Relations Foundation is honored to present the Fourth Report of the California-Japan Scholars Program. This year's summary of activity comes with a great deal of gratitude for the many organizations and individuals who have worked so hard to make our exchange efforts a continuing success.

The California-Japan Scholars Program was established by statute in 1996 following a Senate delegation visit to Japan the previous year to strengthen economic relations between this State and our leading trade partner. Then President pro Tempore Bill Lockyer, and Senators John Vasconcellos, Cathie Wright, and Hilda Solis, met in Tokyo with Ambassador Walter Mondale. The former Vice-President suggested that our great challenge in perfecting the U.S.-Japan partnership arose not from economic imbalances, but from an imbalance in understanding. He noted that Japan for decades had invested in international educational programs for its students, while comparatively few Americans were afforded an opportunity to study in Japan. The Ambassador suggested that California's best contribution to US-Japan relations might be the establishment of an aggressive student exchange program that would serve as an example for the rest of the nation.

The Senators took the Ambassador's advice to heart. Upon the delegation's return, the President pro Tempore asked the California International Relations Foundation to assist the Senate in implementing a model student exchange program. Following legislation by Senator Vasconcellos, the California-Japan Scholars Program was underway.

In 1997 we organized our first class of California-Japan Scholars, with the assistance of the California Department of Education. American teens were chosen to participate on the basis of academic achievement and previous interest in Japanese society and culture. We learned from this first exchange: we determined to control our costs more vigorously, and to broaden our base of potential participants.

In 1998 we conducted our first bilateral exchange. A coordinator was designated within the Foundation to oversee selection of California participants, and we hosted the visit of 100 students from Japan. The California side provided financial assistance to our students with demonstrated financial need. The Japanese students received the guidance and support of the Elk Grove Unified School District. Elk Grove's enthusiasm and professionalism taught us that the key to success was a well-run, localized management, with the state acting in an oversight capacity.

In 1999, we developed what we believe will be the on-going model for the Program. The California International Relations Foundation identified interested California school districts, found prefectures in Japan willing to participate in the exchange, and provided local training and financial assistance to selected students based upon need. Actual implementation of the Program was the responsibility of local California school districts and their Japanese counterparts.

The 2000 program consisted of 30 students and five chaperones from the Osaka Prefecture, visiting California for two weeks.

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These students stayed with host families, attended summer school, and embarked on educational activities in the San Francisco and Sacramento areas. This year's program confirmed that the District to Prefectural

Model is the basis for future success.

We face challenges in the upcoming year. In 2001 three additional school districts will participate in the program, increasing participation by nearly 100 students per year. Our task is to ensure a proper introduction of the program into those school districts, to seek Program development within local governments in Japan, and to find the financial resources to secure their participation. For help in the financial area, we remain greatly reliant on the profound generosity of California's business community and Foundation Board Members.

To increase awareness of the importance of the program, the Foundation has created the official California-Japan Scholars Program Website, www.cjisp.ca.gov. We feel that this represents our best effort to illustrate the purpose and benefits of the program, as well as to provide the most comprehensive informational source to interested parties.

Today there are over 300 Japanese and California citizens who, by their participation in this program, have helped "correct the imbalance in understanding" suggested by Ambassador Mondale. We hope to increase that number to over 500 in the next two years. We intend to grow over time, in the firm conviction that these exchanges constitute our best investment in the future peace and prosperity of the Pacific Rim.

On behalf of the California International Relations Foundation, I would like to thank everyone whose loyalty and enthusiasm has blessed the Program to date: the State Department of Education who helped in the beginning and the many corporate sponsors whose generosity is particularly appreciated. I would like to thank President pro Tempore John Burton and the Senate Rules Committee for their continuing support, the Consulate General of Japan for their commitment of time and energy, and the Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante for his continued personal involvement and diplomatic assistance with the program. This year, I would especially like to thank the Elk Grove Unified School District and the Osaka Prefectural Government. Their hard work and dedication has set an example for us all.

Gregory P. Schmidt
Chair

Thanks, for making it happen ...



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Elk Grove Unified School District

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Osaka Prefectural Government
Osaka Board of Education

The Seeds of Success ...



“Given the current and potential vitality of the State of California and the Osaka Prefecture, as well as their strong cultural ties, the parties recognize that their regions can establish broader economic, technological, and cultural relations.”

Excerpt from the 1994 Cooperation Agreement between California and the Prefecture of Osaka, signed by Governors Pete Wilson and Kazuo Nakagawa on November 15, 1994



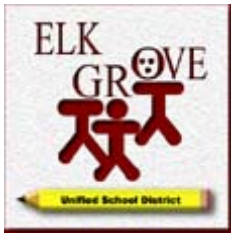
This year's program expands on the 1994 cooperation agreement between California and the Osaka Prefecture. Pictured above, posing with the Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante, former Consul General Tanaka, and former State Assemblyman Mike Honda, are the 1999 Program Participants. For two weeks, those participants immersed themselves in Japanese language, culture, and customs while staying with host families and attending summer school in Osaka, Japan.

The Seeds of Success ...



Visits to Japan in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000 by Members of the California Senate strengthened the framework for the success of the California– Japan Scholars program. In 1999, Senator Figueroa and Assemblyman Keith Olberg meet with members of the Shizuoka Prefecture, which helped to lay the groundwork for future expansion of this program. (Pictured Left to Right) **Mr. Masachika Suzuki** (Director General, Department of General Affairs, Shizuoka Prefectural Government), **Mr. Steven Teraoka** (California International Relations Foundation Board Member), **Assemblyman Keith Olberg**, **Governor Yoshinobu Ishikawa**, **Senator Liz Figueroa**, **Ms. Ezilda Samoville** (Director, Senate Office of International Relations), **Mr. Scott Keene** (California International Relations Foundation Board Member), **Mr. Iwao Horii** (Director of Finance, Shizuoka Prefectural Government), and **Mr. Akira Yamato** (Former Director General, Department of Civic and Cultural Affairs).

The theory ...



“Much is in the news these days about education, particularly the need to equip our students with higher level skills in math, science, reading, and written expression. Yet we all know that what's taught in the classroom is just one part of what's needed to succeed in life. Equally important is an exposure to diversity in ideas and culture, and particularly the Pacific Rim, which is California's partner in trade and culture.”

David Gordon, Superintendent, Elk Grove Unified School District

“For young Californians, early interaction with Japan provides a wealth of opportunity. For some it is a gateway to Asian culture and the chance to draw contrasts with an education grounded in non-western civilization. For others, it's a chance to observe, wonder and compare societies that differ much from our own. “

Cruz Bustamante, California Lieutenant Governor



“Until now, international education at the secondary level has generally been available only to those with the financial means to participate...In every case, these are scholars who would not have had the opportunity to participate.”

Takahiro Moriguchi President, Union Bank of California

“Each person who takes part in the exchange program will come away with memories they will keep forever. I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge everyone involved in making the Scholars Program such a success. Producing this event requires intensive planning and a sense of open communication between our two educational systems.”

Yoshitomo Kurokawa, Superintendent, Osaka Prefectural Board of Education



“On behalf of the Government of Japan, I am very pleased to welcome California's participation in this innovative exchange. The California-Japan Scholars Program is the first high school exchange with Japan initiated by a state government. Japan welcomes California students and looks forward to many years of continued success.”

Nobuaki Tanaka, Consul General of Japan, San Francisco

Assembly Bill 2902



CHAPTER 773

*An act to add Section 48054 to the Education Code, relating to pupils.
[Approved by Governor September 21, 1996. Filed with Secretary of State
September 23, 1996.]*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2902, Vasconcellos. Pupils.

Existing law, the Uniform Supervision of International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organizations Act of 1994, requires international student exchange visitor placement organizations to register with the Attorney General, as specified, and to provide certain information to participating students, host families, and school districts. Existing law authorizes a school district to require proof of registration with the Attorney General from any organization seeking to place an international student exchange visitor, as defined, in the school district as a condition to agreeing to enroll that student.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop and implement a plan to help achieve the objectives in a specified agreement between the United States and Japan providing for the educational exchange of high school pupils. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the plan be developed and implemented no later than June 1, 1997. The bill would require costs of the plan to be funded through donations from the private sector. The bill would prohibit the appropriation of state funds to the State Department of Education for the purpose of developing and implementing the plan.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 48054 is added to the Education Code, to read:

48054. (a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop and implement a specific plan to help achieve the objectives contained in the April 17, 1996, Joint Statement between the United States and Japan providing for the educational exchange of high school pupils between the two countries. The plan shall include ways to best utilize the strong cooperative relationship between California and the Osaka Prefecture that was established pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement dated November 15, 1994, between the State of California and the Prefecture of Osaka.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the plan be developed and implemented no later than June 1, 1997.

(c) The costs of the plan shall be funded through donations from the private sector. No state funds shall be appropriated to the State Department of Education for the purposes of developing and implementing the plan required pursuant to subdivision (a).

The Author...



“As author of the legislation which created the California–Japan Scholars Program, I am delighted by our success in providing young citizens of our respective places an opportunity for visiting and meeting and learning about life and people in the other’s place, hopefully providing them a commitment for lifelong involvement in improving California/ Japan relations, so critical to the world’s well-being in the 21st Century.”

John Vasconcellos **California State Senator**

(Left, below. Speaking to the 1999 California-Japan Scholars during the June 10th, 1999 ceremony in the Governor’s Office at the State Capitol.)



2000 Capitol Reception...



This year's Capitol reception ceremony was held on July 26th, and was hosted in cooperation with the Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, the Senate Office of International Relations, the Consulate General of Japan, and the Osaka Prefectural Office.



(Pictured, Left to Right)

Mr. Takeshi Ueda, Assistant Director for Private Schools Division, Osaka Prefectural Government, **Mr. Hiroyuki Tobimatsu**, Teacher and Chaperone, **Ms. Minako Maekawa**, Teacher and Chaperone, **Mr. Masahiro Wasa**, Deputy Director General, Osaka Prefectural Board of Education, **Ms. Zeny Agullana**, Special Assistant to Attorney General Bill Lockyer, **Mr. Takahashi Shimizu**, Supervisor, Education Promotion Office, Osaka Prefectural Board of Education, **Mr. Matt Gray**, Representative for Senator John Vasconcellos, **Mr. Dave Gordon**, Superintendent, Elk Grove Unified School District, **Mr. Ken-ichi Sakakoshi**, Consul for Political Affairs, Japanese Consulate in San Francisco

1999 Meets 2000...



After the 2000 Capitol Reception, students from the 1999 and 2000 exchange, pose with government officials, school district representatives, and financial sponsors outside the State Capitol. In 1999, 30 California students were chosen to enroll in Japanese language and culture based curriculum for two weeks in Osaka, Japan.

California-Japan Scholars

The Class of 2000



The 1999 participants welcomed this year's exchange students into their homes, showing the Osaka students what life is like in an American home and high school. Studying in California gave this year's participants the opportunity to learn our democratic system of government, language, and history.

California-Japan Scholars

The Exchange



This year's program consisted of 30 students and five chaperones from the Osaka Prefecture. For two weeks, these students stayed with host families, attended summer school, and embarked on educational activities in the San Francisco and Sacramento area.

The 2000 Itinerary...



<i>July 22</i>	<i>Students Arrive</i> <i>Homestay Begins</i>
<i>July 23</i>	<i>Welcome Reception at Sheldon High School</i>
<i>July 24</i>	<i>Summer School Starts</i>
<i>July 26</i>	<i>State Capitol recognition ceremony</i>
<i>July 29 & 30</i>	<i>Activities with the Host Family</i>
<i>July 31</i>	<i>Old Sacramento</i> <i>Sutter's Fort</i>
<i>August 2</i>	<i>Jelly Bean Factory</i> <i>Visit San Francisco</i> <i>Consul General of Japan's Reception</i>
<i>August 4</i>	<i>Final Day of Summer School</i> <i>Farewell Dinner</i>
<i>August 5</i>	<i>Students Depart for Osaka</i>

Student Comments ...



During the summer of 2000, thirty students from Osaka arrived in Sacramento through an exchange program called the California Japan Scholars Exchange Program. A handful of students and their families that participated last year's exchange program received the opportunity to host either their host-brother or sister in this year's program. I am one of the handful of students that received the opportunity to host my brother from last year's exchange program.

This past summer, the Japanese students engaged in summer school and other school activities. The students had the opportunity to experience how it is like to be a student at an American high school.

I personally thought the program was a complete success. I just wish it could have been longer. This has been a worthwhile experience for me. I just hope the Japanese students feel the same way. I hope that they too had a fun and exciting time here.

Hugh Le **Valley High School Senior, Elk Grove, California**

There were many things that I enjoyed doing with the Japanese students, such as going to San Francisco, the Jelly Bean Factory, and of course, talking to them. I hope that I will be able to have a chance to have this experience again.

Keith Nguyen **Valley High School, Elk Grove California**

This summer was a very interesting experience. I had the chance to experience a culture that was foreign to me. This year I am hoping I can go to Japan to visit them. I still keep in touch with them through email and mail. I am happy that I have found a friend for life.

Eddie Chan **Laguna Creek High School, Elk Grove, California**

It was great for me to take part in this exchange program. This program gave me an opportunity to know the importance of inter-cultural communication. I could learn various ways of thinking and experience what I have never done in Japan. Through these experiences, I could learn the importance of communication with other people.

Yoshida Saki **Takatsuki-Kita, Osaka, Japan**

I had a lot of experiences which made me consider or realize what was important in my life. When American people asked me things about Japanese culture, I couldn't answer them very well. In addition, I couldn't fold various Origami and even make cranes very well. These are some typical Japanese traditional cultures. I thank everyone for opening my eyes through this exchange. I have decided to enjoy my culture more deeply, and to teach foreigners about the Japanese lifestyle.

Utani Eri **Fukui High School, Osaka, Japan**

About the California International Relations Foundation



The California International Relations Foundation is a non-profit public benefit corporation that has been organized under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation provides assistance to the California State Senate in furthering the exchange of economic, educational and cultural information between government leaders and other citizens of foreign countries and Members of the California Legislature and other citizens of California. Such exchanges include, but are not limited to, information relating to government, trade and commerce, education, agriculture, tourism, technology, environment and the arts.

In addition, the Foundation helps to organize and sponsor student exchange programs, so that more American students can learn about the language, political institutions, and culture of other countries, and students from other nations may become familiar with our own democratic principles, culture and representative system of government.

The Foundation is funded by private donations from businesses and individuals who are interested in forging stronger ties between California leaders and leaders in other countries; strengthening California's role in international education and exchange and furthering cultural exchanges between California and other countries.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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